

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-18, 20-22, 24-31, and 33-44 were pending in the current application. Applicant proposes to amend claims 1, 5, 9, 14, 18, 22, 26, 31, and 36 as set forth above and cancel claims 38-44 without prejudice.

Examiner Interview

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview conducted on August 22, 2007. During the Interview, the Examiner indicated that claims 1, 3-5, 7-18, 20-22, 24-31, and 33-37 as amended would be allowable over the art of record. Solely for the purpose of expediting the issuance of a patent, Applicant agrees to amend claims 1, 5, 9, 14, 18, 22, 26, 31, and 36 as set forth above and cancel claims 38-44. Applicant reserves the right to pursue claims 38-44, or subject matter similar thereto, in a continuation application.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), Applicant hereby requests and authorizes the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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